

going to a feeding ground the Scaups followed the Old-squaw only when they themselves were thoroughly hungry, judging by their actions, and would probably have gone even if he had not. Even when the Old-squaw did precede, the Scaups were the first to dive. It is not improbable that the Old-squaw is a faster swimmer than the Scaups, and this may account for his preceding them at times. It has been noted that when the birds were thoroughly alarmed, the Old-squaw first tried to escape by swimming, while the Scaups took wing at once. More often the Old-squaw followed the Scaups a little way and then turned about, due no doubt to a gregarious instinct which was quickly overcome by an impulse to sleep, or the fact that he was satiated with food. Occasionally he completely ignored them, and this was at a time when satiety or the sleep impulse or both were strongest. Almost invariably the Old-squaw would not allow the Scaups to come too near, and remained about twice as far from them as they were from each other, at least while inactive, and all were scattered somewhat while feeding. Generally the Old-squaw moved away when a Scaup approached him too closely; in one instance he was seen to wake suddenly and rush at the nearest Scaup with open bill, a phenomenon I have seen among the ducks in the big flying cage at Lincoln Park, Chicago.

How strong the gregarious instinct is in ducks is shown in the behavior of the solitary individuals of different species which alighted on the lagoon after the Scaups had left, both river ducks and sea ducks. There is little likelihood of sexual attraction between the members of different subfamilies, indeed, a Black Duck generally kept to itself at the western end of the lagoon, being at one period of observation close to a Mallard, a member of its own subfamily, just on the other side of the bridge, but separated by a flood-gate.

The gregarious instinct would seem to be further confirmed in the case of the Old-squaw twice following a gull for a short distance during the absence of the Scaups, as if mistaking it for a duck. Herrick <sup>1</sup> cites a case of a shrike attempting to impale prey in a maple, under the pressure of a strong impulse not being able to distinguish the maple from a thorn bush. This author also states that all intelligence gives way under the presence of stronger instincts. The case of the Old-squaw and the gull, it seems to me, is somewhat analagous to that of the shrike.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Ill.*

**American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) in Rhode Island.**—Seeing Mr. Noble's record of the American Egret on Martha's Vineyard reminds me to record the following observation. In August, either on the 15th or 16th, 1913, while crossing the road that skirts the salt marsh just after crossing Stone Bridge, Tiverton, on to the Island of Rhode Island, I noticed from

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<sup>1</sup> Herrick, F. H. Instinct and Intelligence in Birds. III. Pop. Sci. Mo. 77: 82-97, 1910.

an automobile a white heron — I think undoubtedly of this species — feeding by one of the pools. Mr. Lyman Underwood, who was spending the summer in the same township with me (Nonquitt, Mass.), saw several white herons a day or so later at the same place, as he also passed in his automobile, and later I was asked by residents of Wareham, Mass., if white herons should be seen in that locality. Apparently there was a flight during August, 1913.— R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass.*

**Notes on an Unusual Flight of Stilt Sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*).— While walking through the Boston Markets on August 12, 1912, I was surprised to find large numbers of Stilt Sandpipers offered for sale. This species is rather uncommon and although a few generally occur each fall I had never before seen more than twenty or twenty-five in the market at one time. On this date nearly every stall had bunches of them and at one place I saw a large hamper filled with shore-birds nearly all of which were this species. There were a few Yellow-legs and Ruddy Turnstones in the lot but I estimated that there were not less than two hundred Stilt Sandpipers in this one stall. The proprietor, whom I personally know, informed me that all came from Ipswich, Massachusetts, or the immediate vicinity. I could not learn from the other dealers where their birds had been shipped from but there is little doubt that practically all came from points along the Massachusetts coast.

The presence of so many birds in the market would seem to indicate an unusual flight along the coast and the following observations made on Long Island, N. Y., on the same date by my friend, Mr. John Treadwell Nichols, of the American Museum of Natural History, may throw some light on the extent of this flight. With his kind permission I quote the following from his letter.

"On August 12, 1912, I observed an unusual flight of Stilt Sandpipers at Mastic, Long Island. In about three hours time, in the early morning, approximately 200 birds passed by a single set of stool (decoys). They were in flocks of varying size, and mixed with them were a very few Lesser Yellow-legs and Dowitchers. The Stilt Sandpipers taken and observed (and I imagine all the rest) were in barred plumage." — F. SEYMOUR HERSEY, *Taunton, Mass.*

**Franklin's Grouse in Colorado.**— While recently securing data and notes on the "game birds" of Colorado from Mr. Bryan Haywood, who has for years shot these birds all over the west, I was pleased to learn that Mr. Haywood had shot a Franklin's Grouse (*Canachites franklini*) at Palmer Lake, Colo., in September, 1896. I accept this record unhesitatingly because the bird was shot, and examined, and because Mr. Haywood is thoroughly familiar with the species, having killed many in Montana. This bird can be classed only as a straggler in Colorado, and this record is the first, so far as I know, for the state.— W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*